STATE OF SOUTH CAROL	INA )	BEEAB		
(Caption of Case)		BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION		
(Capuon of Case)	)	OF SOUTH CAROLINA		
	)			
Application of Alpine Utilities	s, Inc. for	COVER	SHEET	
adjustment of rates and charge	•			
provision of sewer service and		DOCKET		
establishment of additional rates and		NUMBER: 2008	_ 190 _ S	
charges	)	NOMBER.		
	)			
	)			
(Please type or print)		SC Bar Number: 2549		
Submitted by: John M.S. Ho	efer	<b>Telephone:</b> 803-252-	-3300	
David Office David 94	17	Fax: 803-771-	-2410	
Address: Post Office Box 84		Other:		
Columbia, SC 2920	<u> </u>	Email: ihoefer@willoughby	vhoefer com	
NOTE: The cover sheet and informat	tion contained barein neither replace		· <u> </u>	
as required by law. This form is requ				
be filled out completely.				
D	OCKETING INFORMA	TION (Check all that apply)		
☐ Emergency Relief demanded		Request for item to be placed on	Commission's Agenda	
	u in petition — e	xpeditiously		
	<del></del>			
INDUSTRY (Check one)	NATURE OF ACTION (Check all that apply)			
Electric	Affidavit	Letter	Request	
☐ Electric/Gas	Agreement	Memorandum	Request for Certification	
☐ Electric/Telecommunications	<b>⋉</b> Answer	☐ Motion	Request for Investigation	
Electric/Water	Appellate Review	Objection	Resale Agreement	
Electric/Water/Telecom.	Application	Petition	Resale Amendment	
Electric/Water/Sewer	Brief	Petition for Reconsideration	Reservation Letter	
Gas	Certificate	Petition for Rulemaking	Response	
Railroad	Comments	Petition for Rule to Show Cause	Response to Discovery	
⊠ Sewer	Complaint	Petition to Intervene	Return to Petition	
Telecommunications	Consent Order	Petition to Intervene Out of Time	Stipulation	
Transportation	☐ Discovery	Prefiled Testimony	Subpoena	
Water	☐ Exhibit	Promotion	☐ Tariff	
☐ Water/Sewer	Expedited Consideration	Proposed Order	Other:	
Administrative Matter	☐ Interconnection Agreement	-	Ш	
Other:	☐ Interconnection Amendmen			
	Late-Filed Exhibit	Report		
	Date-1 fied Daffield	□ roport		
	Print Form	Reset Form		
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# WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW
930 RICHLAND STREET
P.O. BOX 8416
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202-8416

MITCHELL M. WILLOUGHBY JOHN M.S. HOEFER RANDOLPH R. LOWELL ELIZABETH ZECK\* BENJAMIN P. MUSTIAN MICHAEL R. BURCHSTEAD

\*ALSO ADMITTED IN TX

June 30, 2008



# **VIA HAND-DELIVERY**

The Honorable Charles L.A. Terreni Chief Clerk/Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of Alpine Utilities, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and Charges for the Provision of Sewer Service and Establishment of Additional Rates and Charges; Docket No. 2008-190-S

Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Alpine Utilities, Inc. are the original and ten (10) copies of its Answer in Opposition and Objection to the Petition to Intervene of Jim and Carolyn Cook in the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter, I am serving a copy of these documents upon the Office of Regulatory Staff and enclose a Certificate of Service to that effect.

I would appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this Answer by date-stamping the extra copy that is enclosed and returning the same to me via our courier.

If you have any questions, or if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

WILLOUGHBY & HOEFER, P.A.

John M. S. Hoefer

JMSH/cf Enclosures

cc: Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire (via electronic and first class mail)

## **BEFORE**

# THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **DOCKET NO. 2008-190-S**

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)	
)	APPLICANT'S ANSWER IN
)	OPPOSITION AND OBJECTION TO
)	PETITION TO INTERVENE
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Applicant, Alpine Utilities, Inc. ("Alpine" or "Company"), pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. R. 103-825A.3 (Supp. 2007) and R.103-826 (1976, as amended), by and through its undersigned counsel, submits the within Answer in Opposition and Objection to the Petition to Intervene ("Petition") of Jim Cook and Carolyn Cook (collectively, "Petitioners") dated June 19, 2008, in the above-captioned matter. In that regard, Alpine would respectfully show unto this Honorable Commission as follows:

1. Applicant answers and objects to the Petition on the ground that the Petitioners have no standing to intervene in the matter because neither of them are customers of the Company nor, upon information and belief, do they own "the duplexes ... on Kay Street, Columbia, SC" referred to in the Petition to Intervene. Applicant asserts that the duplexes situated on Kay Street referred to in the Petition and served by Applicant, which are known as the "Windridge Apartments", are owned by Happy Rabbit, a South Carolina Limited Partnership (the "LP"). Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "A" is a copy of a deed for the real property comprising Windridge Apartments from Carolyn Lucas Cook to the LP

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dated December 29, 2005, and recorded in the real estate records of Richland County in Book R1138 at Page 94. Moreover, neither of the Petitioners has an account with Applicant; to the contrary, the account serving said duplexes is listed under "Windridge Apartments" and not the Petitioners. Attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "B" is a copy of the Company's most recent bill for service to the Windridge Apartments. The Company submits that the customer for its services at the Windridge Apartments is therefore the LP and, thus, that neither of the Petitioners is a "customer" of the Company as defined in R. 103-502.4 (Supp. 2007). The Petitioners therefore lack standing and any right or interest to intervene in the matter as required by R. 103-825A.3(a).

- 2. To the extent that the Petition purports to be filed on behalf of "the tenants of the duplexes...on Kay Street", it would be improperly before the Commission as it would constitute the product of the unauthorized practice of law. Pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. R. 103-804(O), the Petition is a pleading. Assuming that the tenants have standing to challenge the rate increase (which is disputed in view of the fact that the LP is the customer and no tenant is a customer of the Company), Alpine submits that the Petitioners are not licensed as attorneys or otherwise authorized to practice law in South Carolina and, therefore, are unable to lawfully prepare or file pleadings on behalf of the tenants. *See Roberts v. LaConey*, 375 S.C. 97, 650 S.E.2d 474 (2007). Further, 26 S.C. Code Ann. R.103-804.T (Supp. 2007) permits persons to appear in a representative capacity only in the following instances:
  - (a) An individual may represent himself or herself in any proceeding before the Commission.
  - (b) An attorney authorized to practice law in the State of South Carolina may represent a party in any proceeding before the Commission.

Accordingly, Petitioners are further barred from preparing and filing a petition to intervene on behalf of the tenants under Commission rules.

- 3. Similarly, even if the Petition were to be liberally construed as having been filed on behalf of the Company's customer for Windridge Apartments (i.e., the LP), the Petition would nonetheless be improperly before the Commission as individuals may not represent non-individuals in proceedings before the Commission. *See* Order No. 2003-550, Docket No. 2003-162-T, September 8, 2003. *See also In re Unauthorized Practice of Law*, 309 S.C. 304, 422 S.E.2d 123(1992).
- 4. Alpine denies that the requested rate relief is "unreasonable" or "will severely impact the tenants" at Windridge Apartments. To the extent the Petition alleges any other or further matter, same is denied and strict proof thereof is demanded.

WHEREFORE, having fully set forth its Answer and Objection, the Company requests that the Petition to Intervene be denied and that such other and further relief be granted by the Commission to the Company as is just and proper.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

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In recognizing the limitations upon representation of non-individual interests by laypersons under a predecessor version of R.103-804.T, the Commission stated in this order that "[w]e agree ... that the Petitions to Intervene ... should be dismissed. The Petitions to Intervene were signed by persons who are not attorneys. The South Carolina Public Service Commission has not, by regulation, authorized persons not licensed to practice law in South Carolina, to appear and represent clients before the Commission. The "practice of law embraces the preparation of pleadings, and other papers incident to actions and special proceedings...." [citation omitted]. A pleading includes a "petition" as defined by [Commission regulations]. Therefore, Petitions to Intervene which are filed on behalf of someone other than an individual must be signed by an attorney."

Jønn M. S. Hoefer Benjamin P. Mustian

Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A.

Post Office Box 8416

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416

803-252-3300

jhoefer@willoughbyhoefer.com bmustian@willoughbyhoefer.com

Attorneys for Alpine Utilities, Inc.

Columbia, South Carolina This 30th day of June, 2008

Grantee's Address: 608 South Lake Road Columbia, SC 29223

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DEED

COUNTY OF RICHLAND

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned grantor CAROLYN LUCAS COOK (hereinafter referenced "Grantor"), for and in consideration of the sum of Five (\$5.00) Dollars and acquisition of interest im a family limited partnership, without other consideration, to the Grantor in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, by the grantee HAPPY RABBIII, a South Carolina Limited Partnership (hereinafter referenced "Grantee"), the receipt and sufficiency of said consideration being hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these Presents does grant, bargain, sell and convey, unto the Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns, all right, title and interest in and to the premises described upon Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The grant and conveyance of the said premises being made specifically subject to that certain Mortgage from Grantor to Carolina First Bank recorded in the Office of ROD for Richland County on December 9,2005, in Record Book'1129 at page 2142 and that certain Assignment of Rents and Leaser from Grantor to Carolina First Bank recorded in said ROD Office on December 9, 2005, in Record Book 1129 at page 2150. Acceptance of delivery and recordation of this Deed constitutes Grantee acknowledgment and affirmative assumption of the terms and obligations of both said lien instruments:

TOGETHER with all and singular, the rights, members, hereditaments and appurtenances to the said premises belonging or in anywise incident and appertaining.

THIS CONVEYANCE is made subject to easements, conditions and restrictions of record, including matters appearing on plats of record affecting the premises.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the premises before mentioned unto the said Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns forever.

AND GRANTOR DOES HEREBY BIND GRANTOR and Grantor's heirs, successors and assigns to warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises unto Grantee and Grantee's successors and assigns against Grantor and Grantor's heirs, successors and assigns and against all others whosoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

WITNESS Grantor's hand and seal this 22 day o

tay of December, 2005.

Book 1138-94 2006000007 01/03/2006 09:35:36:803

Cinta Tax: 4000

Fee: \$10.00 County Tim: \$0.00

instrument: 2006000007

WITNESSES:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

**COUNTY OF RICHLAND** 

**PROBATE** 

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME the undersigned witness, who being duly sworn deposes and says that he/she witnessed execution of the foregoing deed by the Grantor and that said execution was also witnessed by the second witness whose name appears upon the face of · the said deed.

Witness Signature.

Notary Public for South Carolina My Notarial Commission Expires: 10/0

[Seal]



instrument: 2006000007

: /

All those certain piece, parcels or lots of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Richland, State of South Carolina, the same being shown and delineated as Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on a Plat prepared for Windridge, A Partnership by James F. Polson dated September 4, 1984 and recorded in the Office of the R.M.C. for Richland County, South Carolina in Plat Book 50, at page 1015.

ALSO:

All those certain piece, parcells or lots of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Richilabd, State of South Carolina, the same being shown and delineated httlets 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 annul 12 on a Plat prepared from Windfridge, A Partnership by James F. Folson dated October 29, 1984, and recorded in the Office; of the R.M.C. for Richiand County, South Carolina in Platt Book So, at page 1763.

All those certain piece parcels of loss of land, with the improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the County of Riching State of South Carolina, the same being shown and delineated askiots 13, 14/15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 31, 23 and on a Plat prepared for Windridge, a partnership explanes for Windridge, a partnership explanes for Polson dated hovember 12, 1984 and recorded in the Office of the Rich C. for Richland County, South Camblina in Plat Book 50, 3t page 1580.

DERIVATION: Deed from Windhridge Limited Partnership to Carolyn Lucas Cook recorded in the Richland County Register of Deeds Offfice on November 12, 1999, Record Book 0360 at page '971.

TMS NO., 0612-02-28

Instrument: 2006000007

	<del></del> 	dersigned, who being duly sworn,	
1. I have read the	iDibimation on this affida	avit and I understand such informa	ation.
2. The property b	eing transferred is located	tht 3300 Kary Street, Co.	lumbia, S.C. 29210
by Camplyn I	<b>BINO</b> County Tax Ma Laucas Cook	ap Numbbe <u>r 0612-02-28</u>	, was transferre
to Happy Rai	ibilit, a S.C. Llimit	ted Partnership on D	ecenther 29, 2005.
3. Check one of the	ne following: The deed is	·	
(a)	subject to the dec	ed recording fee as a transfer for 6 r money's worth.	Consideration paid or to be
(B)		eed recording fee as a transfer between the continued as stockholder, pant	
		trust or as a distribution to a trust	
(e) <u>X</u>	Exempt class	deed recording fee because (See stification #8, transfer se skip items 4 - 7, and go to item	<u>r for partnership inter</u>
	e following if either item 3	3(a) or item 3(b) above has been o	hacked (See Information section
this affidavit): 1	e following if either item 3  Noti appolicable  The fee is compu	nted on the consideration paid or t	o be paid in money or
this affidavit): 1	e following if either item 3  Noti appolicable  The fee is compu		o be paid in money or
this affidavít): (a)	e following if either item 3  Noti applicable  The fee is computed money's worth in	nted on the consideration paid or t	o be paid in money or
(a) (b)	re following if either item 3 rest: applicable  The fee is compute money's worth in  The fee is compute  The fee is compute	nted on the consideration paid or to the athought of nted on the fair market value of the nted on the fair market value of the	realty which is
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(a)  (b)  (c)  5. Check Yes ealty before the tra	The fee is computed in	nted on the consideration paid or to in the atticulate of ated on the fair market value of the ated on the fair market value of the coses which is	realty which is realty as established for existed on the land, tenement, or
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Instrument: 2006000007

DateTime: 1/3/2006 9:35:38 AM

9. I understand that a person required to furnish this affidavit who wilfully furnishes a false or fraudulent affidavit is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Responsible Person Connected with the Transaction

29th SWORN to before me this

Carolyn Lucas Cook Will Type Name Here

Public for mmission Expires:

10/01/2013

MOTARL

# INFORMATION

Except as provided in this paragraph, the term "value" press "disconsideration paid or to be paid in money or money's worth for the realty." Consideration paid or to be paid in money's worth includes, but in posterior to post property, stocks, bonds, partnership interests and other intangible property, the forgiveness or cancellation of a debt, the assumption of a debt, and the surrendering of any right. The fair market value of the consideration must be used in calculating the consideration paid in money's worth. Taxpayers may elect to use the fair market value of the realty being transferred in determining this market value of the consideration. In the case of realty transferred between a corporation, a partnership, or other entity and a stockholder, partner, or owner of the entity, and in the case of realty transferred to a trust or as a distribution to a trust beneficiary, "value" means the realty's fair market value. A deduction from value is allowed for the amount of any lieu or encumbrance existing on the land, tenement, or realty before the transfer and remaining on the land, tenement, or realty after the transfer. Texpayers may elect to use the fair market value for property tax purposes in determining fair market value under the provisions of the law.

Exempted from the fee are deeds:

- transferring realty in which the value of the realty, as defined in Code Section 12-24-30, is equal to or less than one hundred dollars; **(1)**
- Differing realty to the federal generations of the a state, its agencies and departments, and its political subdivisions, including school
- (3) that 4416 Otherwise exempted upder the laws and Constitution of this State or of the Utilited States;
- (4)) transferring realty in White or is given in recognized by masson of Section (104) of the Laternal Rovenuc Code as defined in Section (4)) 12-6-40(A):
- (5) individually realty iti order to partition untilly as long as no contribute transfer other transfer other than the interests in the realty that are being excilinged iti order to partition the reality;
- (6) transferring and individual grave at altermetery owned by a contentry company licensed under Chapter 55 of Patle 39;
- (7) that constitute a contract for the sale of timber to be cut;
- Halliferting malry to a corporation, a partnership, or a most illibrider to become, of as, illibrider, partner, of Missbouchieisty of the entry provided no consideration is paid for the triesfer either than stock ill the corporation, intenst in the phittieration, instension, intenst in the print of the phittieration in the same is a state of the part of the partnership, or trust,
- (9) triesliering realty from a family partitioning to a partner or from a family trust to a beneficiarly, provided no consideration is paid for the transfer other than a rediction in the granter's interest in the partnership or trust. A "family partnership" is a partitionable whose partners are all members of the same family. A "family initi" is a trust, in which the beneficiaries are all members of the same family. The belief limits of a family instancy also include cliaritable Gilifies. "Pamily" means the granter and theigraphics's spouse, parents, grindparents, aisters, brothers, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, grindparents, aisters, brothers, children, grandchildren, grandchildr
- an transferring reality it is merger or consolidation from a constituent partitionship to the contribution new partitionship; and,
- that constibile a corrective deed oir a quitchilm deed used to confirm title already vested in the grantee, provided that no consideration of any kind is raid on is to be paid wildlichtlie committive or quitclaim deed.

ACCOUNT # Type Act Name Type <------Company Name----- #Apts AAPT-23A AC C WINDRIDGE AFARTMENTS 46

Property Location KAY ST; N OF ST. ANDREWS

Mail Address: C/O MRS, CAROLYN L COOK Mail Address: P. O. BOX 21561

City COLUMBIA

St SC 21p 29221

Phone Num. (803)788-3133 Special Message MONTHLY SHWER SERVICE

Date First Service @2/W1/1985

Tap Fee Date Tap Fee Paid 11500.00 07/18/1984

STATUS CURRENT

eg, chg. tnem terita Prev. Bal. Late Chg. Bad Due Cur. Fmts. Lst Date 621.00 621.00 05/29/2008 9.00 40.00 0.00 0.00

Comments 46 APT(23 BLDGS)ESIDE KAY STARICH DAVID COOK 608-1517

Last Charge Change Reason Reason Account Added ount No. Last Name Date of Last Charge Date Account Added /

Account No.

AAPT-23A RIDGE APARTMEN

PAYMENT HISTORY

Provious fast 2nd Provious Last 3rd Provious

Aonths Payments Date Months Payments Date 621.00 04/30/2008 621.00 04/03/2008 1242.00 03/19/2008

6th Previous 5th Previous Last 6th Previous Dure Months Payments 4th Previous Last ioniths Payments Months Payments Date Dete 621.00 01/10/2008 0.00 621.00 12/12/2007

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Customer account

## **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **DOCKET NO. 2008-190-S**

IN RE:	)
Application of Alpine Utilities, Inc. for Adjustment of Rates and Charges for the Provision of Sewer Service and Establishment of Additional Rates and Charges.	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  ) ) ) )
	_)

This is to certify that I have caused to be served this day one (1) copy of the Applicant's Answer in Opposition and Objection to Petition to Intervene by placing same in the care and custody of the United States Postal Service with first class postage affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire
Office of Regulatory Staff
Post Office Box 11263
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Clark Fancher

Columbia, South Carolina This 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.